

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00

COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-15 L-03

NSF-04 NSC-10 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-15

SPC-03 DOTE-00 HEW-08 INT-08 HUD-02 OIC-04 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /203 W

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R 101841Z OCT 73 ZFD

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4655

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 11718

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, NATO, UK

SUBJECT: CCMS: PROPOSED ROAD SAFETY RESOLUTION

REF: STATE 184922 AND 185344

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1. SUMMARY: UK ADVISES THAT IT PLANS TO SUBMIT

FORMAL RESERVATION RE PARA 1(B) OF PROPOSED ROAD SAFETY
RESOLUTION BUT OTHERWISE PLANS TO SUPPORT RESOLUTION.
END SUMMARY.

2. WE ARE IN RECEIPT OF LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT (CALVERT) CONCERNING PROPOSED ROAD
SAFETY RESOLUTION. LETTER READS IN PART AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE. I AM AFRAID THAT THE FOOTNOTE DOES NOT MAKE
SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR THE NATURE OF AND REASONS FOR OUR
RESERVATION ABOUT CLAUSE (1)(B) AND IN VIEW OF THIS IT
IS PROBABLE THAT THE UK REPRESENTATIVE WILL SUBMIT
A FORMAL RESERVATION ON THE LINES OF THE ATTACHED
DRAFT. UNQUOTE. BEGIN TEXT. IT IS NOT NECESSARY
TO EMPHASIZE THE HIGH PRIORITY ATTACHED TO ROAD
SAFETY BY THE UK GOVERNMENT BOTH BEFORE AND SINCE
THE 1939 WAR. THE RESULTS ARE ELOQUENT PROOF; IN
1970, ACCORDING TO THE STATISTICS PREPARED BY ECMT,
THE ROAD ACCIDENT DEATH RATE PER 100 MILLION CAR-KMS
IN THE UK WAS THE LOWEST IN EUROPE. THE RATES IN THE
LARGER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN 1970 WERE MORE THAN
TWICE THAT IN THE UK. THE U.K. GOVERNMENT IS NOT
COMPLACENT ABOUT THE 7,000 PEOPLE KILLED ON BRITISH
ROADS EACH YEAR, AND CONTINUES TO GIVE A HIGH
PRIORITY BOTH TO ROAD SAFETY ORGANIZATION AND MEASURES,
AND TO THE RESEARCH NEEDED AS A BASE FOR FUTURE
POLICY. WE DO NOT KNOW - NOBODY KNOWS - WHAT
PROGRESS THIS RESEARCH WILL MAKE, OR WHAT SUCCESS
THESE POLICIES WILL ENJOY DURING THE NEXT FEW
YEARS. THE CAUSES OF ROAD ACCIDENTS ARE HIGHLY
COMPLEX AND THE MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THEM CORRES-
PONDINGLY DISPARATE. THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR IMPROVE-
MENT AND ALWAYS NEED FOR RESOLUTION AND DETERMINA-
TION. BUT THE MEASURES NEEDED TO REDUCE CASUALTIES,
AND THE SCOPE FOR REDUCTION, VARY FROM COUNTRY
TO COUNTRY. GOVERNMENTS MUST TAKE ACCOUNT NOT
ONLY OF THESE VARYING NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES,
BUT ALSO OF THE CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS IMPOSED
BY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. AN INFLEXIBLE
RESOLUTION COMMITTING GOVERNMENTS TO A FIXED
PERCENTAGE REDUCTION OF THE DEATH RATE IS UNREALISTIC
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AND IS UNLIKELY TO SAVE A SINGLE ROAD CASUALTY. THE
UK GOVERNMENT HAS MADE CLEAR FROM THE BEGINNING

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00

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SPC-03 DOTE-00 HEW-08 INT-08 HUD-02 OIC-04 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /203 W

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R 101841Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4656

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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OF DISCUSSION THAT CLAUSE (1)(B) OF THE ROAD SAFETY
RESOLUTION IS NOT ACCEPTABLE, AND MUST NOW WITHHOLD
ITS ASSENT TO THAT CLAUSE. WITH THIS RESERVATION,
THE R.S. RESOLUTION IS WELCOMED, AND INDEED STRONGLY
SUPPORTED BY THE UK GOVERNMENT. IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING
OF THE UK GOVERNMENT THAT CCMS HAS NO INTENTION TO
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DUPLICATE WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES, AND THAT NO CONTINUING SECRETARIAT IS TO BE SET UP AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE R.S. PILOT PROJECT. THE UK GOVERNMENT STRESSES THAT THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR INTERNATIONAL WORK ON THE COORDINATION OF ROAD SAFETY POLICIES ARE LIMITED, AND MUST USUALLY BE FOUND BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS FROM THE SAME POOL OF FINANCE AND MAN-POWER AS RESOURCES FOR DOMESTIC ROAD SAFETY WORK. THE UK GOVERNMENT THEREFORE WELCOME THE REFERENCE TO QUOTE OTHER MULTILATERAL FORUMS UNQUOTE (WHICH THEY TAKE TO MEAN QUOTE OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES UNQUOTE) IN CLAUSE (3)(A) OF THE RESOLUTION AND ASSUME THAT FOLLOW-UP ACTION WILL, IN EACH CASE, BE TAKEN IN THAT BODY WHERE IT IS LIKELY TO BE MOST COST-EFFECTIVE. IN VIEW OF THE WORK ALREADY IN PROGRESS IN OTHER BODIES, AND IN PARTICULAR, THE OECD, ECE, ECMT AND THE EEC, A PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO THE PLANNING OF FURTHER ACTION IS CLEARLY DESIRABLE. END TEXT.
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: SENV, UK, NATO, CCMS
To: STATE
Type: TE
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